

REMARKS

Claims 9-16 and 18 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 9 and 11 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 24-27.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,790,654 to Bagley ("Bagley") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,834,640 to Inoue et al. ("Inoue") and U.S. Patent No. 1,973,428 to Comstock ("Comstock"); rejects claims 11-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bagley in view of Inoue and Comstock further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,219,509 to Cocchetto et al. ("Cocchetto"); rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-2000-326318 in view of Bagley; and rejects claims 11-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-2000-326318 in view of Bagley further in view of Inoue and Cocchetto. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Bagley does not disclose "a connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block being 35 to 65%," as recited in the claims. However, the Office Action asserts that Bagley renders this feature obvious.

Claims 9 and 11 are amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. As amended, claim 9 recites "a connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block being 35 to 65% so as to prevent breakage when being used with the raw material containing SiC." Claim 11, as amended, recites similar features.

Bagley does not recognize the problem associated with raw materials containing SiC, much less the criticality of "a connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block being 35 to 65% so as to prevent breakage when being used with the raw material containing SiC," as recited in claim 9, and similarly recited in claim 11. See the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 24-27. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to

modify Bagley to have "a connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block being 35 to 65% so as to prevent breakage when being used with the raw material containing SiC."

Inoue, Comstock, Cocchetto, and JP-2000-326318 do not supply the subject matter lacking in Bagley. Thus, Bagley, Inoue, Comstock, Cocchetto, and JP-2000-326318, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in the claims. In particular, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the above references to render obvious the subject matter recited in the claims, because, as discussed above, Bagley does not recognize the criticality of the feature "a connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block being 35 to 65% so as to prevent breakage when being used with the raw material containing SiC."

For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 9 and 10 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over the claims of Copending Application No. 10/507,413 or Copending Application No. 11/186,970 in view of Bagley; and provisionally rejects claims 11-16 and 18 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims of the Copending Applications in view of Bagley further in view of Inoue and Cocchetto. As discussed in the August 15, 2006 Amendment, the time for filing a Terminal Disclaimer has not matured. Applicants will consider filing a Terminal Disclaimer, if necessary, at a later time.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

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